

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00

DLOS-09 OES-07 OIC-02 SS-15 ARA-10 FTC-01 /079 W

-----063532 281052Z /12

R 280933Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3961

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E. O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, FR

SUBJECT: MARITIME AFFAIRS: CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURE

REF: STATE 154446

1. SUMMARY. DEROHAN REACTED CAUTIOUSLY ON JUNE 27 TO U.S. SUGGESTION FOR A BILATERAL SHIPPING POLICY MEETING AND ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS OF WHAT THE US PROPOSED TO DISCUSS, ESPECIALLY RE THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE US WAS GIVING "CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT" TO THE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH THE CSG SO THAT A MODUS VIVENDI MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. FINALLY, HE COMPLAINED OF INCREASING SLOWNESS ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) IN APPROVING AGREEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS SUBMITTED TO IT. END SUMMARY.

2. DE ROHAN (ASSISTANT CHIEF OF SHIPPING POLICY IN THE MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY) TOLD EMBASSY'S TRANSPORTATION

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AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER ON JUNE 27 (EARLIEST DATE ON WHICH A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED BECAUSE OF DE ROHAN'S SCHEDULE) THAT (A) HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A COPY OF US PROPOSAL MADE AT JUNE 5 MEETING OF OECD RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES MEETING AND (B) HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A REPORT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON RE US PREPAREDNESS FOR CONSULTATIONS MENTIONED LAST

SENTENCE OF REF A. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE REVIEWED FOR HIM THE US SUGGESTION FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO WHICH HE REACTED CAUTIOUSLY.

3. DE ROHAN SAID THAT BEFORE THE US SUGGESTION COULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERED IT WOULD HAVE TO BE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC AND INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A PROPOSED AGENDA PERPARED BY THE US. HE EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT THE STATE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS, EVEN "WITHIN THE ADMITT-EDLY IMPORTANT LIMITATION OF US LAW", SHOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT ASPECTS WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AS WELL AS WHAT OTHER ISSUES WE MIGHT WANT TO RAISE.

4. DE ROHAN SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THE DOJ WAS WILLING TO PROPOSE A COMPROMISE WITH RESPECT TO THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION. IF SO, FRANCE WAS PREPARED TO LISTEN BUT IT WAS NOT WILLING TO UNDERTAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD ASSIST THE GRAND JURY. FURTHERMORE, HE REMINED US THAT FRANCE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CSG AND DID NOT WISH TO SPLIT WITH ITS "PARTNERS" IN THAT BODY. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULD CONSULT WITH THEM RE ANY US PROPOSAL.

5. FINALLY, DE ROHAN REFERRED TO A STATEMENT MADE AT THE US-CSG TALKS, MAY 30-JUNE 1, BY MR. SEIDEN (CHIEF, TRANS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTATION BRANCH, ANTI TRUST DIVISION, DOJ) THAT THERE WAS A US-UK AGREEMENT WHICH WAS WORKING WELL RE SHARING DATA IN THE SHIPPING INVESTIGATION FIELD. HE ASKED FOR A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT.

6. TURNING TO OTHER ISSUES DE ROHAN RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SEPTEMBER US-CSG MEETING AND SAID HE HOPED THE

USG WAS GIVING "CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT" TO MAKING IT A

PRODUCTIVE SESSION. IF THE US DELEGATION SIMPLY CONSIDERS THIS MEETING AS IN INSTRUMENT FOR HEARING EUROPEAN VIEWS ON SHIPPERS CONCILS, TARIFFS ETC. HE SAID, THE MEETING WILL BE ABORTIVE AND IT WILL NOT RESULT IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVE OF GETTING SOME KIND OF A MODUS

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VENDI BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEANS ON ANTI-TRUST AND OTHER SHIPPING QUESTIONS. HE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE FMC IS MOVING TODAY IN DISPOSING OF CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS SUBMITTED TO IT. DE ROHAN CLAIMED THAT THE FMC PACE IS GETTING SLOWER ALL THE TIME AND THAT THIS WAS WORKING HARDSHIP ON FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN SHIPPING COMPANIES WHO ARE UNABLE TO INCREASE THEIR RATES AND MAKE OTHER CHANGES IN THEIR OPERATIONS UNTIL THE FMC ACTS. HE CITED AS ESPECIALLY UPSETTING THE DELAYS BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE COMBI CONSORTIUM (WHICH INCLUDES A FRENCH LINE) IN GETTING AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE LARGER AND MORE MODERN VESSELS INTO THE US TRADES.

7. COMMENT: WE WILL OBTAIN FROM USOECD A COPY OF THE JUNE 5 PROPOSAL MADE IN THE RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES COMMITTEE AND GIVE IT TO DE ROHAN. SHOULD WASHINGTON WISH TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR A DRAFT AGENDA FOR A POSSIBLE US-FRANCE BILATERAL SESSION.
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IN THIS AREA, WE SUGGEST IT BE DONE PRIMARILY THROUGH THIS EMBASSY AS DE ROHAN SPOKE RATHER DISPARAGINGLY OF THE DELAYS WHICH ATTEND THE TRANSMISSION OF SHIPPING REPORTS FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON VIA

THE QUAI D'ORSAY TO HIS MINISTRY. FINALLY, IF THE
DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PROVIDE US WITH BACKGROUND ON THE
QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 6 WE WILL FURTHER DIS-
CUSS THEM WITH DE ROAHN.
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TAGS: EWWT, FR, US
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